United Nations S/2004/448

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 June 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 28 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement welcoming the decision of the United Nations Security Council on 21 May 2004 to establish a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Burundi (ONUB) and renewing the Union's call for intensified efforts to ensure a successful completion of the transition process in Burundi, issued on 28 May 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 28 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement welcoming the decision of the United Nations Security Council on 21 May 2004 to establish a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Burundi (ONUB) and renewing the Union's call for intensified efforts to ensure a successful completion of the transition process in Burundi by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes United Nations Security Council resolution 1545 (2004) of 21 May 2004 and its decision to deploy a peacekeeping operation in Burundi (ONUB) in support of the efforts of the Burundian people to restore lasting peace and to bring about national reconciliation, as provided for under the Arusha Peace Agreement.

The European Union wishes the operation success in the execution of its mandate and it assures the United Nations of its support for this operation, reinforcing the prospects for peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region, in general, and in Burundi, in particular. It takes this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation for the efforts made by the Governments of South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia as well as by the African Union, through the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB), in assuring peace and stability during the past months of transition and preparing for this new phase in the Burundi peace process.

The European Union seizes this opportunity to welcome the efforts already made by so many in Burundi to make the transition work and urges all parties in the Burundi peace process to continue the dynamic of the Arusha Peace Agreement, to respect all subsequent agreements, to implement the required reforms, in particular within the security sector, and to prepare for elections in a spirit of serenity and mutual respect.

The European Union strongly supports the call of the United Nations for all parties to observe an immediate ceasefire and once more makes an urgent appeal to the Palipehutu-FNL to seize this opportunity for peace, to bring an end to armed opposition and to join the other parties in a negotiated settlement.

The European Union encourages the Regional Initiative, in particular the Governments of Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and South Africa, to continue their efforts to support the transition in Burundi and to bring an end to conflict in favour of an all-inclusive ceasefire and comprehensive peace agreement.

The European Union and its member States reassure all parties in the peace process of their continued close attention and they reiterate their support for the challenges confronting Burundi in the months to come, in particular as far as security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and the election process are concerned. They, furthermore, reconfirm the commitments made at the Brussels Partner Forum in January 2004 to accompany Burundi in its project of reconstruction and economic and social development.